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representative system coming from a Joseph II. was rejected as an instrument of despotism and a violation of the ancient liberties! The annulment of the Joyeuse Entrée was the stroke that severed the bond between Belgium and the House of Austria.

The rest is too well known to require repeating—the death of Joseph, defeated and chagrined; the conciliatory concessions of Leopold; Valmy and Jemappes; the approach of Dumouriez; and the swallowing up of Belgium by the revolutionary flood that swept over the frontiers from France. It is a vivid picture, drawn by a sure and masterly hand. Space does not permit of extended or minute criticism. But one detail in particular is certain to arrest the attention of the American—the formation of the United States of Belgium (January 11, 1790), a federative state, in which each province retained its sovereignty, but delegated the exercise of it, in matters touching the common interest, to a sovereign congress, composed of the same persons as the Estates-General, and renewable every three years.

Nul doute que l'on ait pris pour modèle en ceci les États-Unis d'Amérique. . . . Mais on ne s'inspire de leur exemple que dans la lettre et non dans l'esprit. La constitution américaine, dominée par la déclaration des droits, a fondé la première démocratie moderne. Celle des États-Belgiques, au contraire, orientée vers la passé, n'accorde de droits qu'aux ordres privilégiés. . . . Entre elle et la constitution américaine rien n'est commun que les apparences (p. 479).

THEODORE COLLIER.

*The English Factories in India, 1655-1660.* By WILLIAM FOSTER, C.I.E. [Published under the patronage of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.] (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1921. Pp. 7, 440. 16s.)

*Early Travels in India, 1583-1619.* Edited by WILLIAM FOSTER, C.I.E. (London and New York: Oxford University Press. 1921. Pp. xiv, 351. 12s. 6d.)

WHEN, some fifteen years ago, Mr. William Foster published the first volume of the calendar of documents in the India Office under the title of *The English Factories in India*, continuing the work begun in the publication of *Letters to the East India Company from its Servants in the East*, a new era opened in the historiography of British expansion in India. Thanks to these two series it became possible to discover and to narrate the facts of that extraordinary movement, as it had not been before. For while it is true that the labors of Bruce and his successors had done much to illumine the darkness of Indian history, it was not until the documents in the case were available that it was possible for scholars to unravel the tangled threads of the Company's history in the first years of the seventeenth century.

The *Letters* covered the period from 1602 to 1617, the first nine

volumes of the *Calendars* the period from 1616 to 1655. The present volume of calendars includes the years from 1655 to 1660. But with it the plan somewhat changes; for this tenth volume is not, like its predecessors, a calendar. It approaches more nearly to a history, for it "extracts merely those passages which seemed to merit preservation, and to connect them by a narrative which would at the same time embody the information obtained from other documents which it was not thought necessary to quote in full".

Such a change in plan, forced upon Mr. Foster by the increasing number of documents, has, it is evident, certain advantages combined with certain drawbacks. To the reader it is obviously clearer and more interesting than any collection of documents could ever be—if, indeed, readers ever read collections of documents. To the investigator it is unquestionably a defect, for it may well happen that the precise piece of minute information which he seeks was not considered of sufficient importance or pertinence to include in this narrative. Moreover, the references are relegated to pages at the end of the volume; and it is, perhaps, not out of place to suggest that a simple list of the papers here used—though there are eleven hundred of them—would not have been amiss.

None the less it is an ungrateful task to find fault with a work which adds so much to our knowledge of a period known hitherto, if at all, chiefly through the travels of Bernier and Tavernier; and it is to be hoped that the Secretary of State for India and the Council may be able to continue this great work, which contributes so much to a field of historical research growing in interest and importance year by year.

How great that increase of interest seems to be is indicated by this second volume edited by Mr. Foster. To all students of Indian history the narratives of Fitch and Mildenhall and their successors are known through the work of Hakluyt and Purchas. But to many who are familiar neither with those publications, nor with the lucubrations of the author of the *Crudities*, that strange, far-wandering egotist Coryat, the reprinting of these narratives of English travellers in India between 1583 and 1619 will be an interesting and informing volume. Not the least interesting, and undoubtedly the most valuable, feature of the book is the collection of introductions and notes which witness the learning and the industry of the editor, and give the collection unusual and permanent value to the student as well as to the general reader, for whom it is apparently intended. And it is of more than ordinary interest to see this development in the study of British beginnings in India at the moment when such changes seem to impend in the empire, even in the unchanging East.

W. C. ABBOTT.